



RIC 2001

DEREGULATION, SESSION W-13

**Impacts of Nuclear Industry
Consolidation on NRC Oversight
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OBJECTIVE

Identify and perform a preliminary assessment of the significant impacts of nuclear industry consolidation on the NRC's regulatory role and responsibilities and the resulting need for possible changes to regulations, policies, processes, guidance and organizational structure to continue to meet NRC's strategic goals.

Categorization of Industry Consolidation Issues

! Plant Operational Safety

- Possible Cost-cutting Initiatives
- Technology-related Issues
- Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation
- Waste Management
- Emergency Preparedness
- Reliable Off-site Power

! Licensing

- License Transfer Process
- New License Applications, Site Approvals, and Reactivations of Deferred Plants
- License Renewal
- NRC Organizational Structure

! Inspection, Enforcement, and Assessment

- NRC Reactor Oversight Process
- Other NRC Inspection Programs
- NRC Enforcement Program
- NRC Allegation Program

! Decommissioning

! External Regulatory Interfaces

! Fuel Cycle Facilities

Categorization of Industry Consolidation Issues
(continued)

! Financial

- Foreign Ownership
- License Fee Structure
- Insurance
- Joint and Several Liability
- Bankruptcy Protection
- Financial Qualifications

! Non-NRC Regulatory Considerations

- Grid Stability/Reliability
- Antitrust Considerations

Preliminary Impact Assessment Format

For each issue category or individual issue, as appropriate:

- (1) Identify potential impacts (positive as well as negative) on NRC's oversight responsibilities that might result from industry consolidation and/or deregulation (the primary emphasis is on consolidation).**
- (2) What is the significance of these potential impacts to the NRC's oversight functions?**
- (3) Does NRC currently have regulatory authority and resources (regulations, policies, guidance, processes, staffing, organization, etc.) that address the issues and impacts?**
- (4) If NRC has the regulatory authority and resources, are they adequate? If NRC doesn't have authority and resources, should it have?**
- (5) Staff recommendation:**
 - (a) no further action at this time,**
 - (b) not sure - continue to monitor,**
 - (c) probably need to react - how and when?**